

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-11 have been canceled and replaced by new Claims 13-21 wherein Claims 12 and 13 are in independent form. In independent Claims 12 and 13, the steps forming the inventive method are set forth positively and it is submitted that the claims patentably define over Schroderus EP 0776141A2.

Schroderus discloses a system for PIN protection for a subscriber identification module SIM. The user initiates an identification procedure by entering a personal identification number PIN into the mobile equipment operated with the SIM. The PIN is verified by the SIM and if the PIN is correct, the SIM will allow writing and reading information to and from it. However, if the PIN is incorrect, the user is requested again to enter the PIN and an internal counter in the SIM counts the number of PIN entries. If the user enters a predetermined number of invalid PINs in a row, the function of the SIM is blocked.

Shroderus is silent regarding the present invention, which relates to a wireless identification module (WIM) for performing a digital signature and a method for limiting the number of signatures performed with the WIM. Shroderus only discloses blocking the SIM when a predetermined number of incorrect PINs is entered whereas the present invention as defined by the claims blocks a signature function when the user has performed a predetermined number of signatures. The difference is significant.

Claim 13 introduces the further step of setting a release/reloading of the counter at a new predetermined number of signatures and then releasing the signature functionality of the WIM for such new predetermined number of signatures. Shroderus, on the other hand, discloses that a blocked SIM can be reactivated by entering a personal unblocking key PUK whereupon the SIM is conditioned to perform further identification procedures based on PIN entry.

Note is made of the corresponding European Patent No. EP 1,486,088B1, a copy of which is enclosed. Claims 1-4 are set forth in English in column 4. Just as the claimed subject matter was deemed patentable by the European Patent Office, it is submitted that Claims 12-21 in the present application are patentable within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103

For the reasons set forth above, Claims 12-21 are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Shroderus. It is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections.

Application Serial No. 10/507,426
Amendment dated May 7, 2008
Reply to Office Action dated January 29, 2008

Although it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance, if the Examiner believes that further issues remain, it is requested that he telephone the undersigned at 260-460-1692.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby petition therefor and authorize that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 02-0385, Baker & Daniels.

Respectfully submitted,


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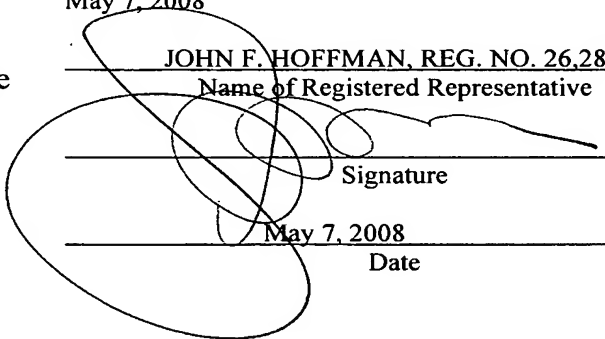
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Petition for Extension of Time
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: May 7, 2008

JOHN F. HOFFMAN, REG. NO. 26,280

Name of Registered Representative


Signature

May 7, 2008

Date